

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 144232
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 A-01 OPR-02 MCT-01
SY-05 /061 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/P:WGEHRON;RCEWING:LB
APPROVED BY EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY
C:MNIMETZ (DRAFT)
S/PRS:JTRATTNER

-----033516 212237Z /72

O R 212207Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CY, US

SUBJECT: DAVIES TRIAL

REF: NICOSIA 1625

1. FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE WHICH WAS PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN JUNE 21. GUIDANCE WAS NOT USED SINCE NO
QUESTIONS WERE ASKED AT NOON BRIEFING.

2. QUESTION: TWO MEMBERS OF A TERRORIST GROUP WERE CON-
VICTED YESTERDAY OF GUN POSSESSION AND RIOT CHARGES IN CON-
NECTION WITH THE MURDER OF AMBASSADOR RODGER DAVIES THREE
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YEARS AGO. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THEIR CONVICTION?

ANSWER: SEEKING JUSTICE IN THE MURDER OF AMBASSADOR DAVIES
AND AN EMBASSY SECRETARY, ANTOINETTE VARNAVA, HAS BEEN OF
CONTINUING INTEREST AND CONCERN TO US SINCE THAT TRAGIC
EVENT THREE YEARS AGO. WHILE WE WERE DISAPPOINTED THAT MUR-
DER CHARGES AGAINST THE TWO DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE WERE RE-

CENTLY DROPPED, WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT OF THE TRIAL. IT DOES IMPOSE A SUBSTANTIAL JAIL TERM FOR BOTH MEN. WE WELCOME THE COURT'S ACTION, TOO, SINCE IT REPRESENTS THE FIRST TIME THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONVICTION IN THE DEATH OF A U.S. AMBASSADOR DUE TO TERRORIST ACTIVITY.

3. QUESTION: DO YOU SEE THE DROPPING OF THE MURDER CHARGE AS BEING POLITICALLY MOTIVATED RATHER THAN AS A RESULT OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE?

ANSWER: WE ARE NOT QUESTIONING ANYONE'S MOTIVES.

4. QUESTION: DO YOU SEE THIS MATTER AS NOW CLOSED?

ANSWER: YES, UNLESS NEW DEVELOPMENTS COME TO LIGHT.

5. QUESTION: DO YOU SEE ANY POLITICAL OVERTONES IN THIS TRIAL AS HAS BEEN ALLEGED?

ANSWER: I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED THAT WE QUESTION NO ONE'S MOTIVES AND THAT WE ARE SATISFIED WITH THE RESULTS. VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, BRIEFING MATERIAL, TEXT, TRIALS, THE PRESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PINT, CY, US, (DAVIES, RODGER P)
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